GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1208
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2005
UPGRADATION OF FOREST ROADS
Barad Shri Jashubhai Dhanabhai;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is having any proposal for construction and development of roads which pass through the forest area ;

(b) if so, the details of the same, State-wise ;

(c) funds allocated for this purpose ;

(d) the time by which the work on this project is likely to be started and completed ;

(e) whether the Government had given blanket clearance in upgradation of temporary forest roads laid prior to 1980 ; and

(f) if so, the details / guidelines issued in this regard ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a),(b),(c)&(d) Yes, Sir. The Ministry has received proposals for construction and development of roads which pass through the forest areas. A statement showing State-wise proposals received in the Ministry during last three years for clearance under the Forest(Conservation) Act, 1980, is placed at Annexure 'A'. No funds are allocated by this Ministry for such works.

(e)&(f) The Ministry has issued guidelines for upgradation of roads constructed in forest areas prior to 1980, from "Kutchcha to Pucca". The upgradation of these roads does not attract provisions of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. A copy of these guidelines is placed at Annexure 'B'.

ANNEXURE A

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a), (b),(c) &(d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1208 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 1.8.2005 REGARDING UP-GRADATION OF FOREST ROADS

Statement Showing Cases (State Wise & Status Wise) Under FC ACT,1980

Category : ROAD During :01/07/2002 To 27/07/2005

State/UT	APPROVED	RETURNED TO SG	CTED WITH GOI	PENDING	Total
A & N Island	0	3	0	0	3
Andhra Pradesh	19	2	0	0	21
Arunachal Pr.	12	1	0	2	15
Assam	2	0	0	0	2
Bihar	1	0	0	0	1
Chandigarh	0	0	0	0	0
Chhattishgarh	0	2	0	0	2
D & N Haveli	15	19	1	0	35
Daman & Diu	0	1	0	0	1
Delhi	0	0	0	0	0
Goa	1	0	0	0	1
Gujarat	65	6	2	1	74
Haryana	25	4	0	0	29
Himachal Pr.	129	54	0	0	183
Jammu & Kashmir	0	0	0	0	0
Jharkhand	1	1	0	0	2
Karnataka	4	11	1	0	16
Kerala	9	1	0	0	10

Lakshdeep	0	0	0	0	0
Madhya Pradesh	11	2	0	0	13
Maharashtra	13	5	1	0	19
Manipur	2	0	0	0	2
Meghalaya	0	2	0	0	2
Mizoram	2	0	0	0	2
Nagaland	0	0	0	0	0
Orissa	11	1	0	0	12
Pondichery	0	0	0	0	0
Punjab	54	11	0	0	65
Rajasthan	11	3	0	0	14
Sikkim	20	1	0	0	21
Tamil Nadu	6	6	2	1	15
Tripura	5	0	0	0	5
Uttar Pradesh	31	11	0	0	42
Uttaranchal	156	20	2	0	178
West Bengal	0	0	0	0	0
Total	605	167	9	4	785

ANNEXURE - B

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (e) & (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1208 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 1.8.2005 REGARDING "UPGRADATION OF FOREST ROADS`

F.No.II-48/2002-FC
Government of India
Ministry of Environment & Forests
F.C. Division
Paryavaran Bhawan, CGO Complex,
Lodhi Road, New Delhi-110003.
New Delhi, the 29 April 2005.

To

The Principal Secretary (Forests),
All States/UTs.

Sub: Guidelines under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for up-gradation of `Kutcha roads constructed prior to 1980 in forest areas, to Pucca roads`.

Sir,

In continuation of this Ministry`s letter of even number dated 14-9-2004 regarding guidelines for repair and maintenance of roads constructed on forest lands prior to 1980, and with reference to the above-mentioned subject, I am directed to convey the approval of the Central Government to the following guidelines, meant for up-gradation of `Kutcha roads constructed prior to 1980 in forest areas, to Pucca roads`:

1. The up-gradation of roads constructed in forest areas prior to 1980 from `Kutcha to Pucca` is allowed to the extent that these roads are not black topped/tarred, and if during the process of up-gradation, these roads need to be black topped/tarred, prior environmental clearance shall be sought by the user agency in this regard.

2. For such up-gradation in protected areas like National Park/Sanctuaries, prior permission of National Board of Wildlife and the Supreme Court shall be taken by the State / UT Government.

3. Fire for melting of coal tar and mixing, shall be lit at a safe distance from the trees/vegetation, which shall be decided by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer. For such constructions, it is better to avoid dry/hot windy seasons. For this purpose, fuelwood shall be purchased by the implementing agency in advance from the depot of State Forest Development Corporation.

4. No crushing/breaking of stones shall be allowed inside forest areas. Readymade materials shall be used for up-gradation of such roads.

5. Both sides of the upgraded roads shall be reinforced with `brick/stone works, and vegetative measures to check soil erosion, at the project cost, in consultation with the Divisional Forest Officer.

6. No tree felling shall be allowed.

7 No widening of roads shall be undertaken without prior permission of the Central Government under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

8. No breaking of fresh forest land shall be carried out.

9. Plantation activities, if the concerned Divisional Forest Officer finds it necessary, shall be taken up along the road at the project cost immediately, The plantation shall be maintained at the project cost.

10. No labour camp shall be established on the forest lands.

11. No work shall be allowed after sunset.

12. Any other condition that the Divisional Forest Officer may impose from time to time for the protection and improvement of flora and fauna in the forest area, shall be applicable.

13. Any damage to forest area due to such up-gradation works shall be compensated by the implementing agency from the project cost. The extent of damage shall be assessed by the concerned Divisional Forest Officer.

14. State Forest Department shall establish permanent check posts on strategic locations on such roads which are already up-graded/under up-gradation.

Yours faithfully,

Sd/-
(Anurag Bajpai)
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.

2. Secretary, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, New Delhi.

3. Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, New Delhi.

4. Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Government of India, New Delhi.

5. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All States and UTs.

6. The Chief Conservator of Forests (Central), All Regional Offices, Ministry of Environment & Forests.

7 The, Nodal Officer (FC), Forest Department, All States/UTs.

8. Director:(FC)

9. AIGF (P)/ AIGF (S)

10. Guard file.